

Great Jean-Rush Of 1848

By Calen Mallory

“Good night, Mom. Good night, Brody.”

My night was going normal as it has on most other nights. After saying good night to my family, I go to brush my teeth. Then I went to bed and hoped to have a dream, but everything got worse. You see, it all started when I woke up. Weird, right?

Yeah, well, the thing was, I did not wake up in my house. I woke up in a strange bed, at an apartment I’d never been in, lying next to my brother. Sitting on a couch across the room was a doctor that I have never met before until now. Per usual, instead of screaming like a normal human, I just got up and went to brush my teeth to find that the toothbrush and toothpaste looked nothing like my own. Didn't matter though, I just brushed my teeth. As I looked in the mirror, I realized that I had grown up with a scruffy beard, same hair but taller as well. Well, I sat down to think and then saw a newspaper on the table next to me. It said **The Californian/San Francisco**. So at that moment, I said, “I am in San Fransisco. I need a breath of air. Hey, maybe I will see the Golden Gate Bridge.”

With that I went out for a walk and found that I was outside right next to where the bridge should be and, well, it was not there? Well, I then ask around, saying “Hey, what is the date today?”

One girl responds with, “Oh, today is April 6, 1948.”

I then responded, “1948?!”

She laughs and says, “Is that a joke? That's one hundred years from now, it is **1848**.”

I almost collapsed until I realized that my brother and whoever that doctor is were still in the apartment. So I walk back while admiring the city that I have only ever known because of the 49ers. Unfortunately, the NFL did not exist in 1848, so no chance of meeting anyone that I would ever know about from San Francisco. I get to the apartment and I legit don’t have keys and don't even know where they are. So I have to knock and startle my brother.

Brody was not very happy that he looks like an adult and is in an apartment without his iPhone. But he answers the door anyway and is already pissed off, so the last thing that he needs is someone who he doesn't recognize to knock on the door of his new apartment. I know that because he found a revolver in a closet and aimed it at me when he answered the door. I told him my name and something only he and I would know with a very panicked voice, since I am currently MUZZLED.

Good thing is after I said all of that, Brody dropped the gun and gave me a hug. He said in a crying voice, "Where is mom? And why is a guy sitting on the couch who looks like a mix of grandpa and dad?"

All I can answer with are two ideas. I said to Brody, "Alright, too many questions and I have zero answers. All I can come up with is option one, we look for what else is hidden with that revolver that you found to see what we can use. And option two, which is finding out what and who that middle-aged guy is on the couch."

Brody then answers with, "Let's do both, starting with option one." Then he leads me to a closet to the left of the master bed and tells me to open the closet door.

Looking in the closet, my jaw drops to the floor when I see all of the goods that are in there. I swear there was mining gear, firearms, including two other revolvers, three rifles, and three backpacks flooded with ammunition. There was also a corner full of weights from fifteen to seventy pound dumbbells, and a giant white box that said "antivenoms and pharmaceuticals." I look at my brother and am astonished since we barely know how to operate any gun and am in awe of the amount of weights on the ground. But most importantly, the white box was a real mystery to me, so I went to open it.

Right before I unlocked it, the unknown man grabbed my arm tightly and said, "Hands off, that's mine."

Surprised Calen is like, okay, let's all have a seat at the dining table (conveniently with three seats). I start a discussion, asking this man who he is and why that MM3 box belongs to him. He says that he is a doctor who is fluent in every type of specialty, including psychology. I ask for his name and he says, "Rick Mallory."

I said, "So you are Mallory, and you happen to be fluent in every medical branch, and you look like a mix of my dad and grandfather? Amazing, nice to meet you. My name is Calen, and this is my brother, Brody."

Next I grabbed the newspaper on the desk and started reading it. The front page was basically talking about how the Gold Rush of California is causing thousands of people to move from other states to get a piece of gold. Then while I'm reading, the doctor mentions that he has \$500,000 worth of gold inside the closet with some money notes. And he says to me, "Out of the three Mallory men here, Calen is the leader of all of us."

Meaning that I am in control of the money, supplies, and, most importantly, the group. Good news is, I was expecting to be the leader since I have always kind of thought and told Brody about what I would do during the Gold Rush. But before I could say anything, Rick said something that I believe is pretty important.

He said, "We are obviously in the year 1848. We will be here until the year 1855. For reasons I can not disclose, I have been sent here with you two and I will act as your mentor and defender. However, Calen is the leader of Brody and I. Now, I don't know if you guys are familiar with what is happening in history right now, so I will tell you. It is the Great California Gold Rush. And we must change history or else the world you two lived in before you went to sleep will be lost by some very selfish world leaders."

I sit there with Brody and the doctor and I ask Rick, "What must we change? Name it and also when will we go back home?"

Rick follows with his best answer, "To go home, you must first change history by turning this \$500,000 into millions of dollars worth of gold. It is not easy, but once you complete that goal, if you can do it, then you get to wake up in your own bed on New Years Eve of 1856, or April 6, 2024 for your time zone."

I ask Rick, "Well, why are my brother and I doing this?"

Rick says, "So you know how to change our world when you wake up as a fifteen year old instead of being an adult as you are now. We need you in the future to save the world from annihilation

and I unfortunately can't yet tell you what will ruin the world. Do a good job and 110% complete your goal, and I will tell you what you need to do."

I then follow his words by making sure Brody is up for helping me with my new found endeavor. Brody answers, "I am completely ready to play this game, but first, why am I here if it is all about you, Calen? And what is in it for me to help?"

Rick answers that tough question for me. He explains, "You, Brody, are the 45% of this operation, it will not work if you don't help him out. Want to know what is in for you? I will tell you, number one, if Calen succeeds because of you, you guys wake up in 2024, and number 2, you get to have the same experience that Calen is having to make millions of dollars before you both even turn sixteen. And don't worry about memory loss, we will make sure neither of you loses memory of what happened as long as we can get to 1855". I ask "Who are we?" Rick says "Do not worry about that, I will tell you later after this starts to make sense. Oh, and another thing, we must survive until 1855 because if any one of us dies, well, neither of you or me will wake up in 2024. Good news is I am here, so try not to get shot in the head or hurt by anything because that is the only thing I cannot treat. With that said, what is the next move, leader?"

And I respond, "Let's brainstorm and find an office to operate my new business. But Rick, how do I even start on running a business?"

Rick then follows with, "Start with an idea of how to make money during the Gold Rush, then rent or buy an office property, and hire employers to help you work towards your newfound goal."

So with Rick's wise words, we three men went off to find a place of operation. You would think that it is easy to find a workspace in San Francisco and well, you would be wrong. A lot of the good spots were taken and there were not a lot of good spots for operation in 1848. So I developed an idea, what if I created a skyscraper? They were invented in 1884, and people were already researching how to make them (I think). I told Rick and Brody my idea. Rick liked it and started researching too. Brody was waiting but he is amazing at it. But we can't just sit around while Rick researches. Either way, the invention of the skyscraper could be amazing for changing the world and making money. And remember,

the goal is to change the world and make the Mallory family wealthy so that when I wake up we aren't in debt.

I say to Brody, "Hey, while Rick researches necessary materials and property to make this building, we should take advantage of the Gold Rush and employ people with us to find gold. I say we get a car and drive to a spot where no one is, and then begin making money."

Brody follows with, "Cars don't exist, we need a horse."

I say, "Good point, let's ask the neighbor where we can find one, and a saddle too."

So with that said, we head to the neighbor's place and ask if he knows anything about this. We knocked on the door and when he answered, we asked if he knew anything about owning a horse. His name was Anthony, and he said, "I do in fact know where to find such a ride, as it happens I have a horse parked out front and am obliged to take you two on a ride to the county. I happen to know a guy who has a ranch for horses and he can teach you two how to ride one, and can sell a horse to each for the right price."

We agreed to the offer, followed him to his horse, and set off. It was a long journey east but eventually we made it to the ranch. The man who owned the property welcomed us in and offered dinner and a place to sleep, since it was late at night. We agreed happily and helped make dinner. From 2024, I am a great cook, so I made a really surprising meal for them and we all enjoyed it and talked about what Brody and I were there to do.

I explained more at the dinner table, saying, "My brother and I are here to purchase a horse, but also to learn how to ride one since we have never done that before."

The man agreed to teach us without further cost. He looked middle aged and wore a cowboy's hat, and he always had a revolver on his hip, just like Brody and I. I was very sure that I could trust him, because Anthony said that he had never visited. The man said, "You boys get a good night's rest, tomorrow we learn horse owning and operating."

We brush our teeth before bed, but the man looked at us with a weird face and then asked us, "What are those things?"

We looked back at him and laughed, without questioning his confusion. We did not question him because we just assumed that it was normal redneck activity to avoid brushing teeth. Thinking back, we were lucky he didn't find us out at that moment, since toothbrushes hadn't been invented yet.

Morning came before we knew it, and we got woken up by a loud pan and spoon. Without breakfast, we were on a horse. I kid you not, within just five minutes of waking up we were on horses. The man taught us the basics on controlling the creatures, then before we knew it, we were riding around the ranch on our new horse powered pet. This man really knew how to train, because by evening we were pro horse riders.

And to celebrate our horse riding success, we had a nice dinner back at the ranch. The man finally revealed his name to be Shane Mallory. Brody and I looked at each other with raised eyebrows and said with enthusiasm, "Our names are Calen and Brody Mallory."

The man smirked and said, "Finish up boys, and get to bed."

We obliged and went to finish brushing our teeth. When Brody and I were spitting out the water, he came quietly and said, "Oiche mhaith," which means good night in Irish.

The next morning we did not wake up to the pot and spoon. This time we woke up to the sound of a rooster and the smell of beans. Then after a good breakfast, we bought the two horses. I named my horse Spirit, and Brody named his Beau. We said our goodbyes and rode off with Anthony. Before we knew it, we thanked Anthony and said hello again to Rick, who was lounging on the sofa with a cigar in his mouth. He welcomed us back and informed us that he concluded his research a while ago. He asked us, "What took you boys so long?"

It had been two long days since we had left. I answered with, "We went to buy horses, and the man at the ranch offered to teach us how to ride one, so we agreed."

Rick replied with, "Glad to hear that you two are making friends and blending in. And I have good news as well, I have figured out where money is within the cycle. It is obviously surrounded by the current Gold Rush. There are few ways to be successful in these parts, which are mining for gold, being middle men for gold sellers, and selling products to gold miners. And one of these is better than the

others, that is selling products to the miners. I know an easy way to begin this company. I was walking around and stumbled upon a little store that had average business and they appeared to be selling overalls to miners specifically. So here is a pair of them here, when I bought them I had a little conversation with the owner. He was very nice and humble. He is an immigrant from Bavaria whose name is Levi Strauss. I really liked his idea of overalls. He liked our motive and really wanted us to help him get his business off the ground, so I gave him a note with our address on it and set a date for him to meet us at dinner tonight.”

To that I say, “Let's get to making dinner then!”

I love baked beans and I know a recipe from home, so we made that with some bacon. At about 6:00 p.m., Levi arrived and knocked on the door. Brody answered the door, and welcomed Levi in whilst introducing himself. I shook Levi’s hand when he came over and I introduced myself as well. Then I showed him to the dinner table where Rick was serving the food. We all talked and shared our interests and, more importantly, what we are looking for. We had the same views in business. We showed Levi a measly ten thousand dollars worth of our fortune and he instantly fell out of surprise. Brody was able to catch him, but Levi was absolutely astonished.

He said, “I have never seen that much money, where did you guys get that?”

We obviously could not answer honestly, because who would believe that we were from the future? So Rick just answered with, “We got lucky down in Sacramento and found a huge mine full of gold ores. There happens to be more notes where that came from.”

We did not show him the pile of gold bars and demand notes in the closet. We could certainly use a vault, but that is a solution for the future. Levi explained his idea about how we can use this current money to invest in mining supplies. He said, “My goodness! Well, I suppose to use this money to invest into a company, we will first need supplies and products of mine which I call jean pants. You’ve probably never heard of them before. Then we need to hire employees to manufacture our jean pants.”

I respond, saying “That is exactly what I was thinking of, but there are two things we should do differently. One, lose the name jean pants. How about just jeans? Second, we need a shop to sell them and

a factory to manufacture these pants. We have enough money to purchase a factory and shop while also providing the funds for our jeans.”

Levi, Rick, and Brody agreed almost instantly. Rick followed with, “I can research expenses and places in San Francisco where we can manufacture and sell. But we will also need employees to deliver to our shop. Who knows, if this gets enough attention, we may be able to open up shops all around the city and become millionaires!”

Brody and I were pleased by this realization, but we also knew that this was the way to do it. And hey, everyone in the group agreed. But one problem arose, where was Levi going to sleep? I said, “Levi, I can let you have Brody and my bed, we have slept on the floor before and it was fun. And before Levi let out an argument, we went to brush our teeth and said good night.”

In the morning, Brody and I got our fitness done quickly and efficiently with the weights we brought from 2024. We wanted to make sure we were done and had the weights put away before anyone else woke up to see them. We woke up at 5:00 a.m. and finished by 6:00 a.m., when we were already making breakfast. Nothing big, just porridge with some fresh picked fruit. With Rick still snoring, Levi rubbed his eyes and sat down at the table where we served him his portion of porridge. He started reading the morning newspaper while Brody and I sat down next to him. Levi was quiet, so I started a conversation with, “How is your horse riding skills Mr. Levi?”

He replied, “You have horses? I only wish I had one.”

I was both surprised and annoyed at the fact that he had never ridden, much less owned a horse before. So now we have to train him ourselves. Rick woke up a moment later with a loud roar from his rectum. We all laughed except him, shortly after gagging by the supreme stink. Jokes aside, Rick mentioned our talk from dinner last night, and Brody said, “Yes, you helped me remember with that cloud of yours.”

Levi had an amazing sense of humor and was just gasping for air laughing so hard (and inhaling Rick's gas). Anyway, Rick cleared his throat and said, “First, it is a normal human function to fart. Second, I did a little bit of research on last night's talk and found only good news. There is a large

building opening up just around ten miles north of San Francisco. There also happen to be a lot of people open for hire since a clothing manufacturing company just went out of business, so we can get sixteen qualified guys that will work diligently. I also estimated the pay of the employees at four dollars each per day, which is not expensive to our budget. However, this factory that we can buy is good, but we need to also understand bills, taxes, and business taxes. After this is taken into consideration, that adds around \$200 to the cost to run the company. So in total, the cost of this monthly happens to be the same as the one going out of business, they are selling it for \$1,500. Taking taxes into consideration, monthly it will be \$1,764. Better news is that this is the same factory that just shutdown, so all we need is a unanimous agreement.”

We all agreed (not like we wouldn’t), but we had to mention how Levi had not ever owned a horse. Rick was not surprised since he and Levi were the only ones that knew what his life looked like before, and Rick came up with a solution. He said, “You boys teach Levi how to ride a horse and buy one for him, and I’ll go ahead and buy the property. I’ll hire these soon to be employees too. Tomorrow we can begin work.”

“Good idea, Rick!” said Levi, and we finished up our meal and set off in opposite directions.

Rick used Beau to get to the property, while the rest of us used Spirit to get to a field just ten minutes away from the apartment. When we got there, Brody and Levi got off while I stayed on the horse. I showed Levi the way to hold the front of the saddle and before we knew it, Levi was a natural, wielding my horse like a bull rider. We then set off to the ranch to see Shane once more, and he was happy to see us. We bought Levi a horse, and he named his Peanut. We rode off to get back to the apartment by noon, and saw Rick riding back just as we arrived. He was surprised to see us back this quickly. He told us that he got the property and hired all of the previous employees, since the original owner had them all still on the job cleaning out the place. Rick said that the previous owner just said, “You can have them,” and all fifteen employees were hired just like that. As we were walking through the door, Rick said, “We need to buy that material, Levi. How do we get it?”

Levi said, "I usually get the jean material from a guy named Jacob Davis, he has a small trailer that I've known since I moved to America. He sells them to me for ten cents per ten sheets of jean material. I am the only one who knows how to make jean pants though, so I will have to teach them."

Rick responds, "Ten of these employees will be in manufacturing, two will be on sorting inventory, and four will be on distribution to our store. We will need two horse carriages for distribution."

Rick went out after we made a plan. Rick planned to get the factory set up and me, Brody and Levi would go get two horse carriages. We took Peanut and left behind Spirit, since Brody and I were going to ride the two horse carriages back while Levi rode back on Peanut. When we got to the place where we were going to buy the two horse carriages, it looked a little bit sketchy. For some context, we three (not Rick) found this shop in the middle of a newspaper which was promoting companies, this one was on the bottom of the list and was on the edge of San Francisco. We got off the horse anyway and proceeded to enter the place, but to my surprise there were four horse carriages, each holding two horses. But there was no owner to be found, so we rang a bell on the front desk. No one appeared. Suddenly, Brody and Levi were taken by two men and I drew my revolver. I shot one of the men in their right shoulder and told the other to freeze. He dropped Brody, but the other held Levi still even after he was shot. But before I knew it, a third person snuck up behind me, put a bag over my head, and knocked me out with a bat.

We were woken up by a female voice screaming, "Wake up, sissys!"

I looked up, a little dizzy with a headache, and saw a girl in her late twenties with my revolver spinning around in her hand. She looks at me and says, "Do you know who I am?"

I replied with a "No."

She then said, as one of the guys from earlier steps behind her, "Of course you don't, I am as secret as mice in a rich man's home, but all I know is that you three came looking for a carriage or two and you are now trapped. We found some good money in the pocket of your red head and we want to keep it. What do you say?"

I replied by asking, “Is this what you all do? Kidnap your customers? Let me guess, you kidnapped those horse carriages as well?”

She replied, “Astute observation, Reddy, as a matter of fact, we did. These eight horses have names, but they are our bait to get people here looking to buy them. Then snatch, we getcha.”

Then she walked away with what looked to be a bodyguard. I instantly noticed our guns lying a few feet in front of us on the ground. But we still had to figure out how we would get out of this rope. All three of us were tied together and had no idea of any way out. We heard things fall and break, they sounded like plates. Then I felt a sudden loss in pressure, and looked behind me to see Levi was on his feet. Levi helped Brody and I up, but we were still tied to the rope. Levi started cutting the rope with a sharp rigid point on the back of Levi's jeans. It looked like one of the spinny wheel gears on the back of a cowboy boot. When we finally got set free of the rope, Brody and I grabbed our guns and ran to hide on higher ground so we could be in position to take out the kidnappers.

About fifteen minutes later, the girl and bodyguard came back and we shot both of them in the head, ending their lives like they did to so many others. We set four out of the eight horses free, and took the two other carriages with us to the new factory while Levi took Peanut back to the apartment. We did not know how to report the stolen horses, so we just set the visibly younger ones free, and kept the four older ones operating the carriages. It took us double the time it took to get there to get back in the carriages because the horses can only go so quick when they are pulling that weight. Levi dropped off Peanut and then got into my carriage, whilst Brody and I set off to the factory. We met up with Rick about an hour later and he showed us around the newly built factory. A day had passed, and Rick and the employees were relentless when it came to setting up the factory. But after all of that, Levi taught all of the men how to make jeans in the overall style and watched them work for a day.

Rick and I finally got back to the apartment, where I told him about what happened. He was happy to hear that we were fine and smart enough not to get killed. It has been over a week since we arrived in 1848 and we are used to it by now. Things are set up in the factory and we just need a bigger space to live in. Rick said that he knows a house close to the factory and it has a view of the San

Francisco Bay. I instantly asked about the price and he told me it was around \$2,000. I am used to everything by now except the price difference. The next day we went to the house he told me about, but before we left we saw Levi sleeping on the floor. I wrote a note on the table saying, "Us three left to go look at a house that we might buy, we'll be back in three hours (noon)."

At the house location, we didn't need a tour because when we got to the front, I had already signed the contract (which also claimed the furniture inside). So now it is our nice house. Rick dropped me off at the factory to borrow a carriage so we could transport the valuables. When I got back to the old apartment, Levi was still sleeping, so I woke him up and got him to help me load up the carriage. There was a lot of ammunition, medicine, gold, and some cash notes. We stopped at a treasury store and bought the biggest vault they had. And after another hour's ride to the house, we dropped the goods off in our new vault inside our new closet.

Brody and I stayed at the house while Levi went to return the carriage, with Rick following behind him with Beau. Brody and I went to take a nap while we waited for the other two to get back, and I remember having a nightmare where we failed to reach our goal and Rick threw us off of the roof of our factory. I woke up in panic, but fell right back to sleep. And I remembered the last time I saw my mom and dad, and realized how much I want to see them again. I woke up the next day to Brody saying, "We need to exercise." So we went out to run, and I told him about the nightmare. He said he had a similar dream.

I didn't think anything more of it, other than being a little more cautious. A week went by and things with Levi and Rick were slipping. They were arguing, and I had the idea of us all taking a horse ride around the countryside of San Francisco. They agreed and we set off, but on the way they started arguing about the company. See, neither I nor Brody ever visited the shop that they opened up, and thus we never knew about the profits. But their arguing sounded like Levi talking about opening new shops around town, but Rick wanted to see how this one would go first.

I had heard enough, so I broke up the argument and told them to look up ahead, there is a trail and horse stands. We all got off of our horses and walked down the trail to find it was nothing cool, just led to

dead ends. So we started heading back and bonding in the process, but then a rattlesnake bit Brody on the leg. Rick instantly said, “We need to get back to the house NOW!”

We rushed back but over time, Brody was losing cognitive abilities and was getting dizzy. We got back to the house and lifted Brody, all three of us carrying him to the master bedroom. Rick opened the vault and brought his medical kit to administer Brody's bite. Brody started to snore, then Levi and Rick left the room. But I watched as my brother was possibly dying. Brody is the only one here that I can trust and he has been my best friend since he was born. I leave him around an hour later, and notice that the vault was left open. I see that a lot of the gold is gone, and Levi and Rick aren't here anymore. I look outside and see only one horse, it is Spirit. I run back inside and see a purple Brody, and with tears starting to roll down my face, I check the nightstand where the empty syringe is to see if the drug administered was in fact anti-venom. And when I checked it, within one second I went from sad to angry when I read the syringe label, it said “snake venom.”

I instantly remember what Rick said would happen if one of us dies, and wonder why I am not dead yet either. Without thinking, I quickly walk outside, where I see a note on the door saying, “Thanks for the money, and sorry for your loss -Rick.”

In a rage, I grab my revolver, backpack of ammunition, and rifle, then I grab the American flag on the side of my house and ride my sweet Spirit to the factory. I went quicker than I had ever gone before and honorably had the American flag flailing in the wind as I went to get my revenge on Rick. I reach the factory and see the horses tied up. I free them, knowing that I won't be able to see them again. I give my horse Spirit a first and final pet, and she licks me as a sign of goodbye. I kick open the door of the factory where I see Levi tied up on a pillar, and I tell him “I am here to send Rick to hell, do you want to join me? For Brody.”

He says “I would be more than happy to kill that son of a horse hitch”. I cut him free and hand him my revolver with a box of ammunition just in case. I walk up to the main control room where there stands the one and only Rick. He points a gun towards me but Levi shoots a bullet at Rick which makes him flee up to the rooftop. This is where a shootout breaks loose. I fire my rifle towards Rick and duck, as

Rick shoots three out of six revolver bullets and hits Levi once in the shoulder. This causes Levi to duck and drop his weapon. Rick discharges three of his last shots and on his seventh trigger pull, he hears “Click.”

That means empty, but not knowing that, I yell out, “RICK, I WILL DROP MY WEAPON AND WE CAN FINISH THIS LIKE MEN!”

Stupidly, we both stand and throw our weapons off of the roof. He throws a punch and I block it. He kicks and I block it, but then he swings and hits me in the head. I forgot what I was up against, a master of everything. I fell to the ground and started to black out, but then I remembered what happened to Brody and what this Loki did. I straightened my vision with motivation, but I was in the air being held by Rick. I punch him square in the nose, forcing him to let go so I can regain my footing. He is now dizzy, and I manage to dodge a punch and uppercut him, breaking his jaw. He kicks me dishonorably in the balls, which warrants me to do the same back to him. He is so surprised that he steps back almost off the roof, and I then held him while he was dangling above a thirty foot drop to the dirt road below. He begged for mercy, and knowing that I was in control of the fate of him living or dying, I said, “This is what happens when you separate a Mallory from a Mallory.” Then I dropped him off of the roof. With his face flattened onto the ground I sighed in exhaustion.

I ripped a part of my shirt off and tied it around the bullet wound on Levis' shoulder. I tell him, “My fortune and belongings belong to you now, continue your business of selling jeans while I go see my brother.”

Levi understands what I mean and says, “It was a pleasure to work with you, Calen. Tell your brother I said hi,” and he pointed my second rifle at my forehead. I nodded and he pulled the trigger. Lights out...I began to hear a heartbeat monitor faintly and some noise of a group of people frantically speaking. I think to myself, “Is this it? My life is over?” Now of course you would say (I would too), “Yes, of course your life is over dummy, you were shot in the head and things went black.”

But little did I know that this was the beginning. I woke up in a hospital bed and saw the smiles of my father, my mom, some hot nurses, and wondered, “Where is Brody?” That was the first question that I asked, and dad said, “He is in the room next to you.”

I pull the cords out of me and get up perfectly normally (the nurses and doctor were surprised to see a coma patient up so quickly). I went to Brody's room where he was eating McDonalds. We both looked at each other and said, “I just had the most weird dream!”

Fast forward a week, Brody and I were discharged from the hospital and we both realized that it was more than a dream since we both remembered everything, and that we were actually talking to each other back then. He asked me about what happened, and what I did after he died from Rick poisoning him. I told Brody how I fought Rick, freed the horses and Levi, and dropped Rick off of the roof. I also told him about how Rick tried to get us killed earlier with the criminal girl with the carriages. Brody said, “Well, in the end, you and I did better the world since Rick was an old Biden, so Joe Biden could never have ruined America. And the obvious thing, not to trust people on sofas.” And I finished with, “But the world doesn't have to know, just you and me. ;)”